

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKAJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VALETTA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0014
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,UN, XG
SUBJECT: "WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS" GROUP AND THE EC-9 AT THE
31ST UNGA

REF: STATE 075242

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA), THE EC-9, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE US, ACTED AS THE CORE (LEADERSHIP) GROUP WITHIN THE MORE BROADLY BASED 22-COUNTRY WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP (WEOG) ON MOST POLITICAL ISSUES. ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ISSUES, HOWEVER, THE US SOMETIMES STOOD ALONE IN OPPOSITION, WITH THE WEOG TENDING TO ABSTAIN AS A BODY. USUN RELATIONS WITH EC-9 MISSIONS AND THEIR PRESIDENCY (THE NETHERLANDS) WERE EXCELLENT AT ALL LEVELS ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND INTEREST. IN THIS CONNECTION, IN PLENARY, FIRST COMMITTEE, SPC, AND THE THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH COMMITTEES, THERE WAS REGULAR AND IN-DEPTH COORDINATION AND CAUCUSING. WE HAD EXTREMELY CLOSE AND FUNCTIONAL CONTACT ON AN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL BASIS IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE. MALTA IS THE ONLY REAL MAVERICK IN THE WEOG, RETAINING AN ALMOST PERFECT NON-ALIGNED STANCE. NEVERTHELESS, MALTA'S AMB GAUCI SOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE SOVIET NON-USE OF FORCE PROPOSAL. WE SHOULD MAINTAIN CONSULTATIONS TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR TIES WITH WEOG, AND IN PARTICULAR THE EC-9, AS WE LOOK TOWARD THE 32ND GA. THE EC-9 AND THE MAJORITY OF THE WEOG WELCOME OUR CLOSE COOPERATION AND LOOK TO THE US FOR CONTINUING LEADERSHIP OF THE WESTERN WORLD.
END SUMMARY.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE WEOG. THE WEOG IN THE UNCONTEXT COMPRISES ALL THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE (INCLUDING MALTA, BUT NOT CYPRUS, WHICH IS IN ASIAN GROUP) PLUS AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND NEW ZEALAND (22 COUNTRIES IN ALL).
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AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL WEOG MEETINGS, THE US PARTICIPATES AS AN OBSERVER AS DO SWITZERLAND, THE HOLY SEE, AND MONACO. AT WORKING - LEVEL, INFORMAL WEOG MEETINGS (I.E., UNGA COMMITTEE-LEVEL), THE US PARTICIPATES AS A FULL MEMBER. ADDITIONALLY, USUN AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL PARTICIPATES FULLY IN VINCI GROUP MEETINGS (WEOG PLUS US AND JAPAN). (USUN 6963, 12/23/75). THE EC-9 ACTS AS A CORE WITHIN THE WEOG ON MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES. OTHER WEOG MEMBERS ARE INFLUENCED BY EC-9 POSITIONS (AS IS THE WEOG BY US POSITIONS). HOWEVER, THIS INFLUENCE VARIES FROM ZERO IN THE CASE OF MALTA TO MUCH IN THE CASES OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND, WHICH ON MANY ISSUES PARALLEL THE EC-9'S. THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND AUSTRIA SOMETIMES LINE UP WITH THE EC-9. JAPAN, ALTHOUGH NOT A WEOG MEMBER, PARTICIPATES IN THE VINCI GROUP AND OFTEN IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH WEO AND EC-9 POSITIONS IN BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS, FINALLY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, GREECE, AND TURKEY ARE INDIVIDUAL CASES. THERE IS NO PURELY NATO CAUCUS IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, THE WEOG AND THE VINCI

GROUP PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS OF ALL NATO MEMBERS ALBEIT IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS.

3. EC-9 AND WEOG PERFORMANCE DURING THE 31ST UNGA

(A) COOPERATION BETWEEN USUN AND THE EC-9 MISSIONS

WAS CAREFULLY MOLDED BY GOVERNOR SCRANTON UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK AND WAS EQUALLY CAREFULLY FOSTERED DURING THE 31ST GA. AT ALL LEVELS MEMBERS OF USUN CONSULTED DAILY AND SOMETIMES HOURLY WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLEAGUES IN PLENARY AND THE MAIN COMMITTEES. SCRANTON MAINTAINED A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR KAUFMANN OF THE NETHERLANDS, WHO HEADED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC-9 IN NEW YORK DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1976. WITH PLENARY IN ALMOST FULL-TIME SESSION THIS FALL, THE USUN PLENARY EXECUTIVE OFFICER MET WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EC-9 PRESIDENCY ON ALL ISSUES EITHER DEBATED SEPARATELY IN PLENARY AND AS THE COMMITTEE REPORTS WERE REFERRED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PLENARY IN THE LAST HALF OF THE SESSION. THE EC-9. WITH STRONG AND ABLE LEADERSHIP BY THE DUTCH, CAUCUSED ACTIVELY AND VISIBLY IN PLENARY. THIS HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITY WAS WELCOMED BY USUN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WEOG AND AT TIMES WHEN DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE ON THE SPOT, THE WEST WAS ABLE RAPIDLY TO DEVELOP AND EXECUTE TACTICAL DECISIONS AND MANEUVERS.

(B) EC-9 PROVIDED STATISTICS ON THEIR

OVERALL PERFORMANCE REVEAL A CONTINUED HIGH DEGREE OF COHESION. OF 266 RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS THIS YEAR (IN 1975 THERE WERE 211) THERE WERE 158 DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS, WITH 61 COMMON VOTES VERSUS 56 IN 1975 AND 47 DIVIDED VOTES THIS YEAR VERSUS 36 IN 1975 (THIS YEAR THERE WERE MORE AFRICAN-RELATED RESOLUTIONS AND ATTENDANT DIVISION IN THE EC-9). IN 82 PERCENT OF DECISIONS TAKEN, ALL THE NINE AGREED (83 PERCENT IN 1975). THE EC-9 HELD 190 INTERNAL MEETINGS THIS YEAR, AND 175 IN 1975. (IO/UNP HAS BEEN POUCHED FULL EC-9 YEAR-END REPORT).

(C) COMPARATIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND MEMBERS OF THE EC-9/WEOG CAN BE STATED AS FOLLOWS:

(I) THE FIRST COMMITTEE: THE GENERALLY GOOD

COOPERATION ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES WITH THE EC-9 AND THE WEOG COUNTRIES IS COVERED IN USUN 6322.

(II) SPC: WORKING LEVEL RELATIONSHIPS WERE MAINTAINED

INFORMALLY AND FREQUENTLY ON ALL STATEMENTS AND ISSUES. THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR THE AN ACTIVE ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY THE EC-9/WEOG AND USUN TO COORDINATE THE WORK AS A GROUP AND WITHIN THE COMMITTEE.

(III) THE SECOND COMMITTEE: THE EC-9 MADE A MAJOR

EFFORT TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE. THIS USUALLY LED TO COMPROMISE POSITIONS WITH THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS OFTEN BEGINNING AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE EC-9

SPECTRUM. THE NETHERLANDS, AS PRESIDENT, USUALLY SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE NINE. WHILE WE HAD NO ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE NINE OR THE WEOG IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE, WE MAINTAINED EXTREMELY CLOSE AND FUNCTIONAL CONTACT ON AN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL BASIS. ON MOST OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUES THERE WAS A CLOSE PARALLEL OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EC-9. WHERE WE DIFFERED, WE DID NOT PROMOTE SPLITS WITHIN THE NINE SO AS TO GAIN SUPPORT OF OUR POSITIONS. OF THE 63 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE II, NINE WERE VOTED UPON.

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UDKSNQ/AMEMBASSY OSLO 521
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK
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OF THESE, THE US VOTED "NO" ON SIX ON WHICH THE
MAJOR EC-9 COUNTRIES ABSTAINED. ON THE OTHER THREE, WE
ABSTAINED TWICE AND VOTED YES ONCE IN THE COMPANY OF THE
EC-9.

(IV) THE THIRD COMMITTEE: IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE
A HIGH DEGREE OF COOPERATION MARKED USUN RELATIONSHIPS WITH
WEOG AND JAPAN. IN MOST CASES THE US AND EC-9 WERE ABLE
TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON MAJOR ISSUES. COOPERATION WAS
ESPECIALLY CLOSE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. COOPERATION
CAME CLOSEST TO BREAKING DOWN IN THE COMMITTEE WHEN
EXTRANEIOUS ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE DRAGGED INTO THE THIRD
COMMITTEE AGENDA.

(V) THE FOURTH COMMITTEE: COOPERATION BETWEEN
USUN, THE EC-9 AND A MAJORITY OF WEOG WAS NOTICEABLY CLOSER
THIS YEAR THAN IN THE PAST; HOWEVER, WITHIN THE
FOURTH COMMITTEE CONTEXT WE FIND THE GREATEST DIVISION AMONG
THE EC-9 BECAUSE OF THE VARIED POSITIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES ON
AFRICAN
ISSUES. COORDINATION IN THIS COMMITTEE WAS INFORMAL AND
PURPOSELY UNSTRUCTURED, THUS PERMITTING USUN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY
WHERE DIVISION WITH OUR FRIENDS OBTAINED.

(VI) THE FIFTH COMMITTEE: OUR CONSULTATION IN FIFTH
COMMITTEE WITH EC-9/WEOG WAS EXCELLENT. THERE WERE WEEKLY
FIFTH COMMITTEE WEOG MEETINGS IN WHICH ALL THE WEOG MEMBERS
EXCEPT MALTA (EXCLUDED FROM FIFTH COMMITTEE WEOG CONSULTATIONS
SEVERAL YEARS AGO) PARTICIPATED. ADDITIONALLY, ON A VERY CLOSE AND
HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, REPRESENTATIVES OF US, UK, FRANCE,
FRG AND JAPAN CONSULTED REGULARLY. SPLITS
WITHIN WEOG DEVELOPED PRINCIPALLY OVER NEW SCALE OF
ASSESSMENTS. AS A RESULT, JAPAN, GREECE, TURKEY AND SPAIN
DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN FIFTH COMMITTEE WEOG MEETINGS ON
THIS SUBJECT. GREECE AND SPAIN WERE PARTICULARLY UN-
COOPERATIVE ON THIS WITH GREECE ALIGNING SELF SQUARELY
WITH 77 AND OPEC. IN FIFTH COMMITTEE, OVER 50 RESOLUTIONS
WERE ADOPTED, MAINLY BY CONSENSUS. VOTES WERE TAKEN ON

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19. ON ALMOST ALL OF THESE, US VOTE COINCIDED WITH THAT OF EC-9 AS A WHOLE OR THAT OF MAJORITY OF EC-9. WHEN EC-9 SPLIT, US VOTES TENDED TO AGREE WITH THOSE OF FRG AND UK. MAY BE NOTED THAT EC-9 DID NOT TRY TO ENFORCE UNANIMITY. (VII) THE SIXTH COMMITTEE: COOPERATION WITHIN WEOG WAS, ON THE WHOLE, FAIRLY GOOD AND THE SUCCESS OF THE FRG HOSTAGES ITEM WAS DUE IN PART TO THIS COOPERATION. WE CONTINUED TO COOPERATE EXTREMELY CLOSELY WITH THE UK, AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC-9 DID NOT INHIBIT THIS CLOSE COOPERATION. THE FRENCH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHARTER REVIEW, WENT THEIR OWN MERRY WAY, BUT THEY DID NOT SEEK TO BEND THE EC-9 IN A TROUBLESOME WAY. THE FRENCH REP IN COMMITTEE 6, SEEMED TO TRY TO MITIGATE SUCH DIFFERENCES AS EXISTED BETWEEN US.

4. NATO. RELATIVELY FEW ITEMS WERE EXAMINED THIS YEAR IN THE NATO CONTEXT. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, GUAM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE. ON THIS, NATO SUPPORT WAS SIGNIFCANTLY GREATER THIS YEAR (USUN 5829). THE BELGIANS, WITH THE FRG, IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE WORKED ACTIVELY WITH THE US IN TAKING THE LEADERSHIP ON NATO-RELATED ITEMS AND IN MOVING SOMEWHAT HESITANT NATO ALLIES, SUCH AS THE DANES AND THE DUTCH, TO MORE MODERATE POSITIONS. LUXEMBOURG CLOSELY FOLLOWED ITS BELGIAN NEIGHBOR.

5. THE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EC-9/WEOG. WHEREAS OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE TWO GROUPS GENERALLY PROSPERED DURING THE 31ST GA, WE MUST POINT OUT THAT IN SOME CRITICAL AREAS (PARTICULARLY THE MAIN ECONOMIC ISSUES) THE EC-9 TOOK POSITIONS OF THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR AND SOMETIMES TENDED TO PRODUCE A COUNTERFORCE TO OUR OWN STRONGLY HELD VIEWS. FURTHER, THE WEOG, WHICH FORMALLY ENDORSES SLATES FOR COMMITTEE AND ELECTED OFFICES IN THE UN SYSTEM, IS OFTEN IN DISARRAY. FOR INSTANCE, WE PROCEED INTO 1977 WITH FAR TOO MANY ANNOUNCED WEOG CANDIDATES FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIAL DISARMAMENT SESSION AND SIMILARLY THE COMMITTEE TO ADOPT A CONVENTION ON HOSTAGES. THE WEOG THIS YEAR

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LUCKED OUT ON THE ILC ELECTION AND EXPANSION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, UNLESS WEOG FINDS PRESENTLY LACKING LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE, WE SHALL PROBABLY BE FACED IN THE FUTURE WITH A LOSS OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES WHICH WE HOLD IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST. IN OUR CONCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DUTCH EC-9 PRESIDENCY,

THEY SUGGESTED WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE UK PRESIDENCY IN
THE FIRST HALF OF '77, AND THE BELGIANS DURING THE SECOND
HALF OF THE YEAR, BOTH TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR LEADERSHIP
IN THE WESTERN WORLD AT THE UN BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THAT
ADVANCE COORDINATION ON MAJOR PROBLEMS CAN BE IDENTIFIED
AND BE ALLOTTED PROPER TIME AND ATTENTION. THE DUTCH AND
OURSELVES BELIEVE THE RELATIVELY INFORMAL STRUCTURE OF OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE EC-9 SATISFIES THE COMMON GOAL AND
REFLECTS THE WISH OF THE FRENCH AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE NINE. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE US FROM
GOING BILATERALLY TO CAPITALS IN ORDER TO STIFFEN THE SPINE
OF A PARTICULAR MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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